



Chair Tony Doan
Washington State Building Code Council
1500 Jefferson St SE
Olympia, WA 98501

13 October 2022

Chair Doan and Members of the State Building Code Council:

I am writing today on behalf of Spark Northwest to express our support for the full package of proposed residential energy code updates, especially the requirement for heat pumps in new homes.

Spark Northwest is a nonprofit organization that partners with communities in Washington and Oregon to create an equitable transition to clean energy and healthy, all-electric homes. We work directly with low-income, rural, and BIPOC communities that experience undue harm from air pollution and the climate crisis.

The climate crisis is a rapidly increasing threat to our communities. Low-income, rural, and BIPOC communities on the front lines of the crisis are working to cope with disproportionate harms. Deadly heat waves, droughts, and dangerous air pollution from unprecedented wildfires have become commonplace across Washington State.

Despite the clear need to stop burning fossil fuels and slow down the crisis, carbon emissions from the building sector are growing more quickly than any other sector in the state, largely due to the use of fossil gas in homes and other buildings. Requiring heat pumps in new homes and housing will dramatically reduce the dangerous emissions that cause climate change.

In addition to mitigating further warming, we as a state must adapt to the excessive heat that is already causing harm to vulnerable and highly impacted Washingtonians. Access to air conditioning during heat waves has become a question of life or death, yet residential air conditioning is in short supply. Heat pumps are the most efficient way to bring air conditioning to homes, while simultaneously replacing polluting fossil-based heating systems.

We urge the SBCC to vote in favor of the full package of proposed residential code amendments, including requirements for heat pumps in new homes. The package as proposed will





dramatically reduce carbon emissions and expand access to air conditioning, protecting the lives and livelihoods of Washingtonians for generations to come.

Sincerely,

John Seng

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